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VIII.—*Obituary.*

## SIR JOHN ARTHUR BROOKE, Bt.

Sir John Arthur Brooke of Fenay Hall, Huddersfield, Yorks, who died on 12 July last, was a prominent man of business in the north and a Director of Messrs. John Brooke & Sons, Limited, worsted manufacturers, Huddersfield.

Sir John Brooke was born in 1844, and was the fourth son of the late Thomas Brooke. He was educated at Repton and Oriel College, Oxford, graduated B.A. in 1865, and was created a Baronet in 1919. His chief interests were in his business and in politics, and he was for many

years chairman of the Huddersfield Conservative Association. He was elected a member of the Union in 1898, but his interest in ornithology was purely that of an amateur. He was a keen observer of bird-life, and had made in his younger days a very fine collection of British Birds' eggs. He was also a collector of books on all subjects relating to ornithology and natural history.

#### GEORGE WYMAN BURY.

The ornithological exploration of south-western Arabia must always be associated with the name of Lieut. G. Wyman Bury, R.N.V.R., whose recent death at Helouan, near Cairo, at the age of 46, we regret to learn from the pages of the 'Times.'

Bury was born at Mancetter Manor House in Warwickshire, and was educated at Atherstone Grammar School and at Army crammers. In 1894 he received a commission in the 3rd Batt. R. Warwick Regt.; in the following year he was in southern Morocco with the rebel tribes. During the next six or seven years he was in the Aden hinterland and other parts of southern Arabia, making archæological and zoological investigations and acquiring a wonderful knowledge of the Arab tribes. He was political officer at Aden in 1903-4. On the outbreak of the war he joined the Intelligence Staff on the Egyptian front, and later on was attached to the Red Sea Patrol.

His first ornithological collections were made in 1899-1900, when he was attached to the expedition under the leadership of Messrs. W. Dodson and A. B. Percival for the exploration of the hinterland of Aden, the results of which were worked out by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant and published in 'Novitates Zoologicæ' (vol. vii. 1900, pp. 243-266). Further collections of birds were made by him in the following year when attached to an Austrian expedition which visited south-eastern Arabia for archæological investigation. The account of the birds then collected was published in the 'Journ. für Ornithologie' of 1901 by Messrs. L. von Lorentz and C. E. Hellmayr.

In 1905 Mr. Bury, at the instigation and with the assistance of Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, made a collecting expedition to Somaliland, but was unable on account of political difficulties to reach the high ranges behind Cape Guardafui as he had intended. The Somaliland collection was worked out by Mr. Bannerman ('Ibis,' 1910, p. 291). Finally, in 1912-13 Mr. Bury explored the Yemen country of south-east Arabia, never previously visited by an ornithologist and even by very few Europeans. The collection of birds was worked out by Mr. W. L. Selater ('Ibis,' 1917, pp. 129-186).

Mr. Bury published an amusing account of his travels in Yemen under the title 'Arabia Infelix' in 1915. He was also the author of 'The Land of Uz,' 1911, and 'Pan-Islam.' He leaves a widow but no children. He was never a Member of the Union.

#### WILLIAM DUTCHER.

From the last number of the 'Auk' we learn that Mr. Wm. Dutcher, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals, died on the 1st of July at his home in Chevy Chase, near Washington, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

To Mr. Dutcher, more than any other individual, is due the present interest in wild bird conservation in America, the organization and development of the National Association of Audubon Societies, of which he was President from the time of its conception until his death, and the manifold activities which have grown out of this organization.

In his young days Mr. Dutcher was an active field-student, working in Long Island, and he published many important papers on the birds of that region, besides forming a valuable collection, which is now at New York in the American Museum of Natural History.

Later on he was elected Chairman of the A. O. U. Committee on Bird-Protection, the work of which was eventually taken over by the National Association of the Audubon Societies. This great institution is the federal bond linking together

the Audubon Societies in each State of the Union, and is besides, through the energy and enthusiasm of its President, possessed of ample means, which are devoted to the maintenance of special bird-reserves, to work among the schools and school-children, and to propaganda and the guiding of the legislatures in the various States of the Union in regard to the protection and conservation of wild life.

Mr. Dutcher was a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union and a Member of their Council.

#### ROBERT ETHERIDGE.

Mr. Robert Etheridge, the son of the distinguished geologist and palæontologist of the same name, died after a short attack of pneumonia at Colo Vale, near Sydney, on the 4th of January of last year. He was elected a Member of the Union in 1914.

Born in 1847 in England, he early took up geological work in Australia in the middle sixties. He returned to England and was for a short time, together with his father, on the staff of the Geological Department of the Natural History Museum. In 1887 he went back to Australia as palæontologist to the Geological Survey of New South Wales and to the Australian Museum at Sydney, of which latter institution he subsequently became Director. His scientific work and publications were, we believe, entirely concerned with geology and palæontology, and his interest in ornithology was purely that of an amateur.

#### JOHN GERRARD.

John Gerrard, F.G.S., M.B.O.U., who died at the age of 70 at his residence at Worsley, Lancashire, on 28 July last, was born at Ince Hall in the heart of the Lancashire colliery district, and inherited from his father, a mining engineer, some of the gifts which proved so useful during his long life of practical experiment and investigation. He was educated at Wigan Grammar School, and entered the service first of the Ince Hall and then of the St. Helens

collieries, but at the age of 23 he was appointed an Assistant Inspector of Mines. In 1893 he became Chief Inspector for the Manchester and Irish areas, and held this post until 1914. Perhaps his most important scientific work was his investigation of the causes of coal-dust explosions; after the terrible explosion at the Pretoria pit he was amongst the first who descended to the rescue.

His interests, however, were not confined to engineering or geology, although he was one of the leading geologists in the North. He was keenly interested in ornithology and certain branches of entomology, and during trips to the west coast of Scotland, the Orkney, Shetland, and Faroe Islands, he accumulated interesting collections of birds and eggs, which, through the kindness of his sister, Miss E. M. Gerrard, have found a home in the Wigan Mining and Technical College. He supported any movement which he considered would further science; thus he was a member of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, and for many years served on the Committee of the Manchester Museum. He was elected a member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1892.

He was always genial, always sympathetic, and his advice when sought was willingly given and sound.—T. A. C.

#### CHARLES WILLIAM SHEPPARD.

We regret to have to record the death on the 20th of September last of one of the oldest Members of the Union—the Rev. Chas. William Sheppard—at the age of 84. He was elected a Member of the Union in 1863, Canon Tristram being his proposer. He had been rector of Trottescliffe, near Maidstone, in Kent since 1875.

Mr. Sheppard was born at Trottescliffe Rectory in 1838, where his father, the Rev. Edward John Sheppard, was rector before him from 1827 to 1875; so that father and son held the same benefice for over 90 years. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School (then in Thames Street) and also at Charterhouse, and subsequently at Trinity College,

Cambridge, where he took his degree of B.A. in 1861 and M.A. in 1864. He was ordained in 1870, and acted as his father's curate for four years before succeeding him in the living which was his only cure.

His interest in Natural History was very considerable, and in his younger days, accompanied by Mr. Upeher and the late Mr. G. G. Fowler, of Gunton Hall, who was for many years a Member of the Union, he made an excursion to Iceland, and visited the north-western peninsula, a portion of the island not previously explored by any English traveller. The results of this visit, both ornithological and otherwise, are related in a little book, 'The North-west Peninsula of Iceland,' published in 1867 (see 'Ibis,' 1867, p. 239).

Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Upeher subsequently accompanied Canon Tristram to Palestine in 1864-5, and the results of that expedition will be found recounted in the pages of 'The Ibis' for 1865 and onwards, where Mr. Sheppard's name is often mentioned.

The only other ornithological publication with which Mr. Sheppard's name is connected is 'Notes on the Birds of Kent,' published in 1907, in which he collaborated with Messrs. R. J. Balston and E. Bartlett.

Mr. Sheppard had a fine collection of Ducks, both British and foreign, the foundation of which was made during his visit to Iceland. For nearly half a century he had been the father of his parish, and was greatly respected and beloved by all the people of his neighbourhood, though he was not perhaps so well known among the younger ornithologists of to-day as he deserved to be.

#### HERBERT HUNTINGTON SMITH.

Mr. Smith, who met with his death through a railway accident on the 22nd of March, 1919, at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, U.S.A., was Curator of the Alabama Museum of Natural History, and one of the earliest and most experienced of American field-naturalists.

Between 1881 and 1886 Mr. Smith, accompanied by his

wife, who was his constant companion and herself a first-rate collector, was in the vicinity of Chapada and Cuyuba, in the Province of Matto Grosso in Brazil. The large collection of birds secured in that region is now divided between the British Museum and the American Museum of Natural History. In 1889 the Smiths collected in Mexico for Mr. Godman, who was then amassing material for the 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.' From 1890 to 1895 they were in the West Indies, in the interests of the West Indian Committee of the Royal Society and British Association. Later he collected in Colombia for the Carnegie Museum. Here, however, he became so seriously ill that he had to give up all further work in the Tropics.

A sketch of his life by Dr. W. J. Holland will be found in 'Science' (vol. xlix. 1919, pp. 481-483).

#### IX.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

##### *Cory's Catalogue of American Birds.*

[Catalogue of Birds of the Americas and the adjacent Islands in the Field Museum of Natural History. By Charles B. Cory. Pt. ii. no. 2. Families Trogonidæ, Cuculidæ, Capitonidæ, Rhamphastidæ, Galbulidæ, Bucconidæ, and Picidæ. Pp. 317-607, 1 col. pl. Field Museum of Natural History Publication no. 203, Zool. ser. vol. xiii. Chicago, U.S.A., Dec. 31, 1919.]

The second part of Mr. Cory's Catalogue of the Birds of the Americas contains the lists of the species of the remaining families of Picarian birds left over from Part I. published in 1918 and reviewed in 'The Ibis' (1918, p. 500). The present part follows the lines of the previous one, and contains descriptions of all those species not mentioned in the Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum or in Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America.' We are very glad to see a great improvement in the proof-reading, and have hardly noticed any of the misprints which disfigured the first part.